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## SABOTAGE DELAYS COMPLETION OF LAI-CHEN RR LINE

Canton, 28 August -- Although sabotage and construction difficulties have delayed the completion of the Lai-Chen Railway, it is now expected that trains will be run on this line by 1 January 1952. To expedite the establishment of through transportation between China and Viet Nam, the government of the People's Republic of China is taking urgent measures to rush construction work on the last section of the Lai-pin--Chen-nankuan railway. Under orders from the Central People's government, the provincial authorities of Kwangtung and Kwangsi are jointly responsible for the recruitment of 100,000 men for corvee labor on this project, so that the construction of this 418-kilometer-long Lai-pin-Chen-nan-kuan extension of the Hunan-Kwangsi Railway may be completed by the end of 1951.

Early in August 1951, the Kwangtung authorities issued orders for the hsien officials of southern Kwangtung to mobilize laborers and send them to Chen-nan-kuan in Kwangsi as soon as possible to take part in railway construction. These orders were sent to the officials of the city of Fort Bayard (Chan-chiang), and of Wu-chiang, Sui-ch'i, Hai-k'ang, Hsu-wen, Lienchiang, Hsin-i, Hua-hsien, Mei-mao, and Tien-pai hsiens. Men between the ages of 18 and 45 are now being rounded up in the rural villages for this work.

From conversation with a certain engineer working on this project who recently came from Nan-ning to Canton to purchase railway materials and equipment, it was learned that on 25 September 1950 work began on the construction of the Lai-Chen extension at Lai-pin working southward, and on 10 October 1950 at Nan-ning working northward. Operation of trains between these two points began on 25 February 1951. The work on the Nan-ning--Chen-nankuan section is in itself an immense undertaking. In addition, among the large number of workers, there are anti-Communist special agents, gangsters, and feudalistic foremen who constantly destroy construction, set fire to and burn railway material, or create other disturbances among the workers. These actions seriously interfere with engineering construction plans and cause delays.

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